

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically synthesized double-stranded ~~short interfering~~ nucleic acid (siNA) molecule comprising a sense strand and an antisense strand that directs cleavage of an intercellular adhesion molecule (ICAM) RNA via RNA interference, wherein:
  - a. each strand of said siNA double-stranded nucleic acid molecule is about ~~1918~~ to about 2327 nucleotides in length;
  - b. ~~one strand~~ the antisense strand of said siNA double-stranded nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence ~~having sufficient complementarity to said ICAM RNA for the siNA molecule to direct cleavage of the ICAM RNA via RNA interference~~ that is complementary to a human huntingtin (ICAM) nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:439 and the sense strand is complementary to the antisense strand; and
  - c. said double-stranded nucleic acid molecule ~~does not require the presence of nucleotides having a 2' hydroxyl group within the siNA molecule for mediating RNA interference~~ comprises at least two different chemically modified nucleotides.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The siNA double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said siNA double-stranded nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~claim 6~~ 1, wherein said sense ~~region~~ strand is connected to the antisense ~~region~~ strand via a linker molecule.
11. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim 10, wherein said linker molecule is a polynucleotide linker.
12. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim 10, wherein said linker molecule is a non-nucleotide linker.
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.
14. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in the sense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
15. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
16. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~9~~ 1, wherein the ~~fragment comprising said~~ sense ~~region~~ strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the ~~fragment comprising said~~ sense ~~region~~ strand.
17. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim 16, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
18. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~ double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides ~~of said~~ present in the antisense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides

19. (Currently Amended) The siNA double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim 6 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides of said present in the antisense region strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
20. (Currently Amended) The siNA double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim 6 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in said the antisense region strand ~~comprise~~ are 2'-deoxy- purine nucleotides.
21. (Currently Amended) The siNA double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~18~~ 1, wherein said the antisense region strand comprises a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of said the antisense region strand.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Currently Amended) The siNA double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim 9, wherein the 5'-end of the ~~fragment comprising said~~ antisense region strand optionally includes a terminal phosphate group.
31. (Currently Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising the siNA double-stranded nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in ~~an~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.